

Application No.: 10/696950

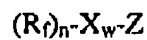
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Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A composition~~ **Composition** comprising an organic or aqueous liquid having dissolved or dispersed therein a mixture of fluorinated polyethers of the formula:



wherein n is 1 or 2, w is 0 or 1, X is a divalent or trivalent organic linking group, Z is a polar group selected from the group consisting of an acid group or salt thereof, an ammonium group, an amine-oxide group and an amphoteric group, and R_f represents a perfluorinated polyether group of the formula:



wherein k is at least 1;

said mixture of fluorinated polyethers having a weight average molecular weight between 750 g/mol and 5000 g/mol and the amount of perfluorinated polyether groups in said mixture where k is 2 or less, is not more than 10% by weight of the total amount of perfluorinated polyether groups in said mixture.

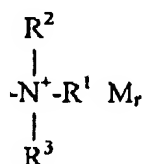
2. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~Composition~~ according to claim 1, wherein the organic liquid is selected from the group consisting of polar solvents selected from the group consisting of alcohols, ketones, esters, ethers and amides, non-polar solvents selected from the group consisting of aromatic and aliphatic hydrocarbon solvents and halogenated solvents selected from the group consisting of hydrofluoroethers, hydrofluorocarbons and chlorinated hydrocarbons.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~Composition~~ according to claim 1, wherein the organic linking group corresponds to the formula $-\text{CONR}^n-(\text{CH}_2)_s-$, wherein Rⁿ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkyl substituted by halogen, OH, or SH and s is 1 to 20.

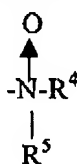
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4. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~Composition~~ according to claim 1, wherein Z corresponds to the formula:



wherein each of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 independently represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group that may optionally be substituted, M represents a counter ion, r is 0 or 1, and when r is 0, one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 represents a hydrocarbon group that is substituted with an acid group or wherein Z corresponds to the formula:



wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkyl substituted by a halogen, a C_{1-6} -alkoxy, NO_2 or CN group, or R^4 and R^5 join to form a 5 to 7 membered ring that may contain one or more additional hetero atoms and that may be substituted by one or more C_{1-6} -alkyl groups.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~Composition~~ according to claim 1 further comprising one or monomers capable of polymerization.

6. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~Composition~~ according to claim 1 further comprising a fluorochemical compound capable of providing oil- and/or water repellency properties to a substrate.

7. (Currently Amended) A mixture ~~Mixture~~ of fluorinated polyethers of the formula:
 $(\text{R}_f)_n-\text{X}_w-\text{Z}$

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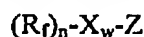
wherein n is 1 or 2, w is 0 or 1, X is a divalent or trivalent organic linking group, Z is a polar group selected from the group consisting of an ammonium group, an amine-oxide group and an amphoteric group, and R_f represents a perfluorinated polyether group of the formula:



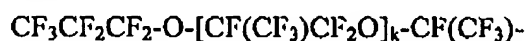
wherein k is at least 1;

said mixture of fluorinated polyethers having a weight average molecular weight between 750 g/mol and 5000 g/mol and the amount of perfluorinated polyether groups in said mixture where k is 2 or less, is not more than 10% by weight of the total amount of perfluorinated polyether groups in said mixture.

8. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ of altering the surface energy and/or interfacial free energy of a medium, said method comprising 1) providing a medium and 2) incorporating a fluorinated polyether composition therein, said fluorinated polyether composition comprising a mixture of fluorinated polyethers of the formula:



wherein n is 1 or 2, w is 0 or 1, X is a divalent or trivalent organic linking group, Z is a polar group selected from the group consisting of an acid group or a salt thereof, an ammonium group, an amine-oxide group and an amphoteric group, and R_f represents a perfluorinated polyether group of the formula:



wherein k is at least 1;

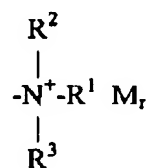
said mixture of fluorinated polyethers having a weight average molecular weight between 750 g/mol and 5000 g/mol and the amount of perfluorinated polyether groups in said mixture where k is 2 or less, is not more than 10% by weight of the total amount of perfluorinated polyether groups in said mixture.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of claim 8, wherein the organic linking group corresponds to the formula $\text{-CONR}^a\text{-(CH}_2\text{)}_s\text{-}$, wherein R^a is hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkyl substituted by halogen, OH, or SH, and s is 1 to 20.

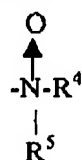
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10. (Currently Amended) The method Method of claim 8, wherein Z corresponds to the formula:



wherein each of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 independently represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group that may optionally be substituted, M represents a counter ion, r is 0 or 1, and when r is 0, one of R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 represents a hydrocarbon group that is substituted with an acid group or wherein Z corresponds to the formula:



wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkyl substituted by a halogen, a C_{1-6} -alkoxy, NO_2 or CN group, or R^4 and R^5 join to form a 5 to 7 membered ring that may contain one or more additional hetero atoms and that may be substituted by one or more C_{1-6} -alkyl groups.

11. (Currently Amended) The method Method of claim 8, wherein said medium is a coating composition or fire-fighting agent.